

6 February 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, National Reconnaissance Office

SUBJECT : Project []

1. On 5 February 1963, CIA representatives were briefed on the [] program, i.e., the incorporation of the E-6 camera in a THOR-assisted CORONA system.

2. The stated objectives for this project were -

a. to determine the usefulness of 6-1/2' resolution photography for survey purposes, and

b. to check out the E-6 camera system from which photography had never yet been recovered.

3. As a result of the discussions which were participated in by the briefers, NPIC representatives and others, it did not appear the proposed project would be the best way of satisfying the first objective. The LANYARD program should provide on a much earlier time scale, and perhaps even within a month, both stereo and mono coverage in approximately 6' resolution. This photography should be more useful for achieving objective a. than the [] project which could not provide stereo coverage. It was also not clear in these discussions how the E-6 camera could realistically provide 6-1/2' resolution if the MURAL camera configuration which provides as many, if not more, lines per millimeter and is in the ratio of 3 to 2 in focal length provides only 13' resolution.

4. With respect to objective b., it was not apparent from the discussion that information on the actual in-flight success of the E-6 camera would have any particular usefulness in connection with

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any presently planned or seriously considered follow-on programs. Therefore, although it would be nice to know how successful the camera system was, it did not appear to be a particularly important objective.

5. During the course of the discussion another possible objective of the test evolved. This would be the actual development and checking out of a relatively inexpensive and rapid system for getting 6-1/2" resolution survey photography if this were deemed an important requirement by USIB and NPIC. Although the COMOR and NPIC studies last August did not attach high importance to this capability, it is possible that were this system available it would be found very useful. Photography from the LANYARD program (see paragraph 3) should provide a product for a real evaluation of this problem by the intelligence community. In this connection it should also be kept in mind that other systems, such as the 40" MURAL, have been proposed for obtaining film of this quality for this purpose.

6. The entire [redacted] program would cost approximately [redacted] for the 4 systems plus [redacted] for each actual TAT launch. At the present time the availability of boosters is seriously limiting this program, and the USIB action at its meeting of 6 February indicates a need for additional boosters and perhaps pads over those presently being programmed for these activities. Therefore, the [redacted] program will be in serious competition with other approved programs for boosters and funds.

7. In view of all these facts, I would recommend the following:

- a. The [redacted] program not be approved at this time.
- b. The LANYARD material be evaluated as soon as it is available by NPIC and the intelligence community to determine the usefulness of this higher resolution photography for survey purposes.

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25X1 c. The 40" MURAL and any other proposals for obtaining survey photography in the 6' resolution range be studied and carefully evaluated with a view to being in a position to make a decision on the optimum system when the LANYARD material evaluation (paragraph 7 b.) has been completed.

HERBERT SCOVILLE, JR.
Deputy Director
(Research)

CONCUR:

D/NPIC

Date: _____

cc: DD/I (# 3)
NPIC (# 4)

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